

## Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 AGR-10 AGRE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/I/JVZIMMERMAN:TMG

APPROVED BY OES/APT/SA:IMPIKUS

USDA/ISON/ DRAFT

ARA/ECA:MR. HARRIS

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P 180158Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 231366

E.O. ,1652: N/A

TAGS:TSPA

SUBJECT:US CROP FORECASTING EXPERIMENT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5878

1. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON FOLLOWING IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH AP ARTICLE ON LACIE PROJECT AND SUBSEQUENT LA NACION EDITORIAL.

2. USDA HAS BEEN ROUTINELY MAKING GLOBAL CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES FOR MANY YEARS USING BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THESE ESTIMATES ARE PUBLISHED AND WIDELY DISSEMINATED. LACIE IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE TIMELINESS AND ACCURACY OF USDA ESTIMATES. THOUGH BECAUSE LACIE IS AN EXPERIMENT, USD IS NOT NOW USING LACIE INFORMATION TO PRODUCE ITS FORECASTS

3. LACIE PROJECT WAS ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER 1974 BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. LACIE HAS SINCE BEEN DISCUSSED REPEATEDLY AND IN DETAIL AT UN AND INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL MEETINGS AND HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF SEVERAL JOURNAL ARTICLES.

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4. LACIE USES NASA LANDSAT AS WELL AS NOAA METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE DATA ALL OF WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON AN UNRESTRICTED BASIS AT NOMINAL PRICES.

5. THUS, LACIE ALWAYS HAS BEEN OPEN PROJECT AND CITED ARTICLES ARE FLATLY IN ERROR IN SUGGESTING COVERT CHARACTER AND "UNUSUAL DISCLOSURE". ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, PRESS COMMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 18 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ORIGIN NASA  
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**Reference:** 76 BUENOS AIRES 5878  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vandyklc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 FEB 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** TSPA, EAGR, AR, US  
**To:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006